

Exclusions possible

Big changes for Cooperative Program

By Craig Bird

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Southern Baptists are being challenged to give \$20 billion a year through local congregations by the year 2000. (1980 giving was \$2,315,149,038.)

The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention will receive a report in February from the 25-member Cooperative Program Study Committee it appointed last year to consider making recommendations to the SBC annual meeting in Pittsburgh in June.

Also to be considered will be a significant change in the Cooperative Program.

The 15-step "Planned Growth in Giving" anticipates each Baptist indi-

vidual, family, church and regional convention to respond with a percentage increase in giving through the Cooperative Program each year from 1985 through 2000.

"Giving patterns in the Southern Baptist Convention have not changed in the last 20 years; and if we pull it off with this program, it will be dramatic," said Cecil Ray, executive secretary of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and a member of the study committee writing team which drafted the basic document. "To match a dream you have to have deliberate and planned commitment—these goals are within reach but awesome enough to scare us."

"The dream" Ray referred to is

Bold Mission Thrust, the SBC effort to present the message of Jesus Christ to every person in the world by the year 2000. The SBC launched Bold Mission Thrust in 1977, but the 1983 meeting will be the first at which long-term funding of the program will be addressed.

The heart of the plan is the week-long training of 700 church and denominational leaders to lead state-sponsored Planned Growth in Giving Conferences. The state conferences will be three-day sessions with a pastor and a layman from each of the convention's 36,000 churches invited. "The cost in dollars and time for the training is large—but the benefits are even larger," Ray explained. "We

have never asked pastors and laymen to give three days to this type of meeting, but that is what it will take for Planned Growth In Giving to be successful."

The change in the Cooperative Program, the SBC voluntary contribution plan which underwrites national and worldwide mission and educational efforts, will be the first major change since the Cooperative Program was created in 1925.

Presently all gifts to the Cooperative Program are divided among all SBC agencies according to a budget approved by messengers to the annual SBC meeting. The study committee is suggesting churches be allowed to "exclude certain causes" and still have their gifts considered as Cooperative Program contributions.

"No one is comfortable with undue exclusions; but if we're going to ask for theological diversity in unity within the convention, then we should provide for flexibility in funding," said Randall Lolley, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N. C. and chairman of the writing team.

"This is a good statement," agreed Dan Vestal, pastor of First Baptist Church in Midland, Texas, which has

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Thursday, February 10, 1983

Committee on Committees

(Continued from page 1)
Colorado Springs, and Dale Mountain, member of Trinity Baptist Church of Loveland.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA—Mrs. Worth Grant, a former missionary to Japan and member of Temple Baptist Church of Washington, and Steve Hyde, pastor of First Baptist Church of Silver Springs, Md.

FLORIDA—Jim Wilson, an evangelist and member of First Baptist Church of Orlando, and Jerry Passmore, pastor of Olive Baptist Church in Pensacola.

GEORGIA—Robert Marsh, pastor of Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church of Atlanta, and John McCoy, former medical missionary to Nigeria, and member of Northside Baptist Church of Tifton.

ILLINOIS—Everett Anthony, director of missions of the Chicago Metropolitan Baptist Association, and Rex Hodge, a construction contractor and member of Logan Street Baptist Church of Mt. Vernon.

INDIANA—James Ehrlich, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church of Evansville, and Wallace Denton, professor of family life ministries at Purdue University and member of Calvary Baptist Church of West Lafayette.

KANSAS/NEBRASKA—David Cone, pastor of Country Acres Baptist Church in Wichita, and George Delahoussaye, member of First Baptist Church of Bellevue, Neb.

KENTUCKY—David Nelson, pastor of First Baptist Church of Owensboro, and Phyllis Ann Green, member of Northside Baptist Church of Mayfield.

LOUISIANA—Perry Sanders, pastor of First Baptist Church of Lafayette, and Raymond Boswell, member of Highland Baptist Church of Shreveport.

MARYLAND—Hugh Townsend, pastor of First Baptist Church of Berlin, and Terrance Hart, a Westinghouse Corp. executive and member of Faith Baptist Church of Glen Burnie.

MICHIGAN—Milton Wood, pastor of Gorham Baptist Church of Jackson, and Judy Gill, member of First Baptist Church of Swartz Creek.

MISSISSIPPI—Harry Vickery, member of First Baptist Church in Greenville, and John Brock, pastor of Van Winkle Baptist Church of Jackson.

MISSOURI—Mark Brister, pastor of First Baptist Church of Bolivar, and Ted Garrison, a physician and member of First Baptist Church of Camdenton.

NEW MEXICO—John Preston, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church of Farmington, and Fred Maldonado, Jr., member of Templo Bautista in Las Vegas.

NORTH CAROLINA—Sam Currin, federal prosecutor and member of Hayes Barton Baptist Church of Raleigh, and Glen Wilcox, owner of a travel agency and member of First Baptist Church of Asheville.

NORTHWEST — (Washington/Oregon)—Darrell Evenson, director of missions of the Inland Baptist Association in Portland, Ore., and Doug Franklin, member of Trenton Avenue Baptist Church in Bremerton, Wash.

OHIO—Glenn Davidson, pastor of Pisgah Heights Baptist Church in Westerville, and Jim Dobbs, member of Dublin Baptist Church in Columbus.

OKLAHOMA—Jim White, pastor of Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, and Joe Coleman, member of First Baptist Church of Tulsa.

SOUTH CAROLINA—Horace B. Sims Jr., pastor of Abney Memorial Baptist Church of Greenwood, and Harry Dent, member of First Baptist Church of Columbia.

TENNESSEE—Fred Steelman, pastor of Red Bank Baptist Church of Chattanooga and president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and Wendell McClinton, member of First Baptist Church of Donelson.

TEXAS—Ralph Smith, pastor of Hyde Park Baptist Church in Austin, and Mrs. Frank Stewart, a member of First Baptist Church of El Paso.

VIRGINIA—L. W. Bray, an Air Force major general and member of Columbia Baptist Church in Falls Church, and George Kissinger, director of missions of the Peninsula Baptist Association in Newport News.

(Martin is BP news editor.)

Elder elected to head Sunday School Board

(Continued from page 1)
has passed and a time for commitment has come." He said his commitment is "first and eternally to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord" and then cited his family, the local church, the Bible ("God's inspired Holy Word"), the masses "lost without Jesus Christ," and the Southern Baptist Convention and its Cooperative Program.

Of the Sunday School Board and its 1,500 employees, Elder said he will seek to "give team leadership to enable the board to fulfill its 16 programs of work assigned by the convention" and that he will seek to learn all he can in the next year from Cothen "as he continues to give strategic, devout and superlative leadership to the board."

Before the election, Elder described the work of the search committee as "probing, gracious, thorough and prayerful."

Calling the election process "an awesome time for the board and for the Elder family," Elder, in his preliminary statement, posed and answered five questions about himself: Who are you? What do you believe? How do you do your work? How do you see the Sunday School Board? How do you discern the will of God?

Describing himself as a "take-charge team leader," Elder said, "I would characterize my style of leadership as pastoral—caring for people but not permissive."

He said love, character, vision and a sense of high purpose are vital qualities for a leader who also must have "courage to decide and move out in the face of all risk because of the possibility of good."

He added: "There is no more important decision than choosing your people." Summarizing, "I like to work with people and ideas and I love to preach the gospel," said Elder, who was a pastor for 16 years in four Texas churches before becoming assistant to

the executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas in 1975.

Elder called for a balance of power between the president and the trustees. "I have seen the dangers of trustees moving into administration," said Elder. "It is equally dangerous for the president not to know how to guides by leave of the trustees."

About the Bible, Elder said, "I believe the Bible is a Holy Book, divinely inspired by God, infallible and authoritative in the life of every believer. I didn't arrive at this by reading the 1963 statement ('Baptist Faith and Message')," he noted. "A reverence for the Bible was a part of the Elder family. The more I tested that faith presupposition, the more I came to see the Bible as a Holy Book."

Concerning diversity of beliefs among Southern Baptists, Elder warned against staking out positions on any 15 or 16 "major Christian doctrines" and making them a test of fellowship.

"I want to state clearly those things that unite us and not make doctrinal positions a test of fellowship on either side," he explained. "I do think Baptists are going to do better when we major on what God can do among us and not become embroiled in tests of fellowship on any one of our particular doctrines."

On criticism, Elder drew laughter when he acknowledged, "I don't like it." However, he noted, "Administratively and pastorally, I have tried to find out what is coming to my attention through the criticism."

With his installation in 1984, Elder will become the first president from west of the Mississippi River and the first from Texas. The three most recent presidents—T. L. Holcomb, James L. Sullivan, and Cothen—are natives of Mississippi and grew up in towns within a 30-mile radius.

Tithing and worship



In seeking to establish worship for the people of Israel after they had crossed the Jordan into the land of promise, Moses commanded the people to utterly destroy the idols of the pagans, tearing down, smashing, and burning them (Deut. 12:2).

As for them, "You shall seek the Lord at the place which the Lord your God shall choose from all your tribes, to establish his name there for his dwelling, and there you shall come. And there you shall bring your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes . . . you shall not do at all what we are doing here today, every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes" (II Chr. 12:5-6).

From biblical antiquity, tithing and worship have been integral parts of the same experience with God. Tithing is a tangible way of acknowledging God's ultimate ownership and man's obedient management. It helps man remember who God is and who man is. It puts things in the right perspective.

Since Eden, Satan has tried to get every son of God to repeat Adam's sin, the sin of substituting his will for God's will. No greater danger faces men of faith today.

In Col. 4:14, Paul mentions the beloved physician Luke and Demas the Colossian church. In II Tim. 4:10-11, Paul explains that "Demas, having loved his present world, has deserted me . . . only Luke is present with me."

Pick up Mark and bring him with you."

Mark had forsaken Paul and Barabbas but Mark came back to the Lord and to the work. No such mention is ever made of Demas. Demas found the words of Jesus to be true: "Ye cannot serve God and mammon (money)". Demas chose money and walked out of the biblical story.

In the membership of churches today are persons who make a profession of faith but who rarely attend and rarely, if ever, give. Such persons are not pleasing God and are wasting their lives, talents, and resources on unworthy pursuits. Such disobedient persons are not "getting by" with their folly, they are only building up evidence for "the judgment of the great day" (Jude 6).

True salvation is not only an escape from the fires of perdition; it is an opportunity to serve a risen Savior.

The Magi from the East when they arrived in Bethlehem . . . came into the house and saw the Child with Mary his mother; and they fell down and worshipped him; and opening their treasure, they presented to him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh" (Matt. 2:11).

Wise men today follow their noble example.

(This series is prepared by the department of Stewardship and Cooperative Program Promotion.)

January giving jumps over '82

Mississippi Baptists began their 1983 giving to the Cooperative Program January with a 13 percent jump over their giving for January of 1982, according to an announcement by Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Total income to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, which receives the gifts and distributes them to Mississippi Baptist and Southern Baptist causes, was \$1,217,037. January giving a year ago was \$1,076,552.

However, on a pro rata basis, to reach the 1983 budget of \$15,071,000, monthly giving would have to average \$1,255,917. This means that January was \$38,880 under budget.

Golden Gate committee nominates Frank Pollard

(Continued from page 1)
for The Baptist Hour radio program or the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission; and since 1977 he has been the host for the national television program, At Home with the Bible.

Charles Carter, Jackson attorney, is chairman of the trustees of Golden Gate Seminary. He said, relative to the nomination of Pollard as seminary president:

"Golden Gate Seminary is one of the newer of the Southern Baptist Seminaries, established in the West in 1944. Then Southern Baptists were virtually unknown in the West, and a great majority of the people had no active church relationship. Great progress has been made in the work of

Southern Baptists there, and Golden Gate Seminary has been a leading influence in it. The area in which it is located is characterized by a strong multi-ethnic culture; and significantly, about 20 percent of the students of the seminary are of oriental descent.

"Frank Pollard has a high-priority commitment to missions, both home and foreign. He is one of the most outstanding preachers in America, an unusually effective communicator. He has devoted himself relentlessly to the preaching ministry. His kind of preacher is greatly needed in large numbers in the West to build strong, evangelical churches."

Pollard has served as vice-chairman of the Executive Board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, as a member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and of its Executive Committee, as a Bible professor at West Texas State University, as a trustee of Howard Payne University, and as president of the Southwestern Seminary alumni organization in 1978.

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An application or nomination should be in writing to be considered. It should contain a resume of personal, educational, denominational and professional background and experiences; evidences of participation in organizations and community involvement; record of both church and professional growth, activity and leadership roles; official transcripts; a list of reference sources; and the reason for applying for this position.

Wayland Baptist University is a four-year liberal arts, sciences and selected professional and graduate studies institution related to the Southern Baptist Convention with distinctive Christian emphasis, located on the High Plains south of Amarillo and north of Lubbock.

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Frostbite medicine needed at equator?

NEW YORK (EP)—The Cleveland Plain Dealer reported in a series of copyrighted articles that U.S. firms annually give relief agencies millions of dollars worth of food and medicines that are outdated or not fit for domestic use—then take tax write-offs on them.

Among examples cited was the gift two years ago to Map International Inc., a Christian relief and development agency, of 8,000 artificial pacemakers by the American Hospital Supply Corp. The gift was said at the time to be worth \$17 million. The Cleveland newspaper reported, however, that hundreds of the pacemakers may have been defective at the time of the gift—a fact concealed by the company when it donated them. The electrical devices are implanted in heart patients to help regularize heartbeats. Half of the donated pacemakers Map eventually gave to the American Friends Service Committee, which sent them as a gift to China. About a fifth of the supply is potentially defective.

The series had little to say about the long-established Jewish and Christian agencies which still coordinate much of the country's relief efforts, but a lot to say about newer evangelical agen-

Three Gardner-Webb profs die in wreck

BOILING SPRINGS, N. C. (BP)—Three professors at Gardner-Webb College were killed in a three-car wreck Jan. 27 as they were returning to campus after teaching classes at the school's Catawba Center in Newton, N.C.

Mike Harrelson, 51, professor of biology and chairman of the department of natural sciences, and John Rast, 36, assistant professor of religion, were dead at the scene, about eight miles south of Hickory.

James Henson, 55, professor of psychology, was taken to a Hickory hospital. He died Sunday morning in the intensive care unit.

The three-car wreck—which also claimed the lives of two other persons—occurred at 10:18 p.m. Thursday. The three men had finished teaching at the Catawba Center at 10 p.m. The center is one of 10 operated by the college as part of its GOAL (Greater Opportunity for Adult Learners) program.

cies, which were criticized for aggressive and misleading fundraising tactics.

One of the most bizarre cases cited was a gift of frostbite medicine sent to refugees in Somalia, just north of the equator in northeastern Africa.

The Plain Dealer said slick documentary-style television fund-raising ads, broadcast earlier in 1982 by three rival evangelical agencies operating in Somalia, alarmed Arthur E. Dewey of the U.S. State Department's bureau of refugee affairs. The ads were produced by World Vision, International Christian Aid, and World Concern.

The ads filled the television screen with stark images of dying children, emaciated adults in ragged clothing, and crowded refugee camps. Dewey called the ads deceptive, focusing on events then nearly two years old. The United Nations officially declared the Somali crisis over last February, although the need for emergency aid remains. Dewey said agency estimates of the number of refugees in Somalia were inflated. One put the number of refugees at 1.5 million, another 12 million. The State Department said there were about 500,000.

Officials of the agencies criticized responded that they needed dramatic visual evidence of suffering refugees to awaken Americans to the need for funds for continuing emergency and development projects. "We want those appeals to be motivational, but not manipulative. And that's tough sometimes," said Timothy Burgess of World Concern.

Melton teaches study at Linwood

Charles Melton, professor at Clarke College, will teach the January Bible Study on I Peter at Linwood Baptist Church, Philadelphia, Feb. 13-16. Johnny Collins is the Linwood pastor.

It's hard to distinguish between the person who didn't know the gun was loaded and the driver who didn't know he was.

Every once in a while you meet one of those strange persons who is polite and isn't trying to sell you anything.



Baptist Memorial Officers

Joseph H. Powell (seated), president of Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Inc., Memphis, meets with new trustee officers of the system following the annual election. They are (from left) F. Irvin Hays, Bartlett, Tenn., secretary; George H. Dunklin, Pine Bluff, Ark., first vice chairman; Cameron Dean, Tribbett, Miss., second vice chairman; and W. Fred Kendall II, Union City, Tenn., chairman.

Pastoral Care Seminar to deal with abortion issue

"Abortion: Blessing Or Blight" is the theme of the 1983 Pastoral Care Seminar to be held Thursday, March 3, in the Gilfoyle Amphitheater of the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson.

The seminar will deal with the issue of abortion in a Christian medical context and is jointly sponsored by the department of Pastoral Care of the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center and the Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. The seminar will begin at 9:30 a.m. and will conclude at 3 that afternoon.

Speakers for the event will be as follows: Beverly Smith, M.D., will discuss abortion from the context of a practicing physician whose attitudes and professional stand on abortion has changed. Her topic will be "A Physician In Pilgrimage: Agnostic To

Christian." Mildred Crider, professor of psychology at Mississippi College, will deal with the issue confronting those who counsel with persons seeking to resolve problem pregnancies. Her topic will be "Abortion: Issues Confronting the Counselor." Paul Jones, executive director of the Christian Action Commission, will speak on the subject, "The Ethical Issues in Historical Perspective."

The final session of the day will be a panel discussion with the three speakers serving as panelists. The moderator for the panel will be Gordon Shambarger, senior chaplain and director of the department of Pastoral Care of the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center. The panel will be open to questions from the participants and will engage in dialog among themselves.

The pastoral care seminar is pro-

Baptists are on hand to help refugees spilling into Ghana

LOME, Togo (BP)—Southern Baptist missionaries were there to help when Ghana opened its border to thousands of refugees stranded on neighboring Togo's beaches.

The border opening on Jan. 29, requested by the United Nations, enabled thousands from Nigeria to return home to Ghana. But they faced conditions no better than those they left, said Clayton Bond, Southern Baptist missionary in Lome, Togo.

Missionaries and Togolese Baptists sent a truck of food to refugees who

had crossed into Ghana and continued distribution of food, water, and medical supplies in Togo. They distributed 25,000 pieces of bread Jan. 31.

Southern Baptist missionaries also work in Ghana but they live farther from the border and food is unavailable in Ghana. The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has allocated \$45,000 for distribution of food, water, and medical supplies in the emergency.

More than 50,000 Africans gathered on the closed Ghana-Togo border after Nigerian President Shehu Shagari proclaimed a mass eviction of foreigners without work permits Jan. 17. According to news reports, he attributed his action to economic problems and social tensions created by illegal aliens that led to bloody riots last fall.

Groups of refugees also massed at the Togo-Benin border, at the Nigeria-Benin border, and in Lagos, Nigeria's capital and principal port, where they scrambled to get out of the country by the Jan. 31 deadline.

Tiller reports that a representative of Nicaragua charged in a recent meeting of the Third Committee of the U.N. General Assembly that the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States has been infiltrating Christian groups in Nicaragua in an attempt to manipulate them as a means to destabilize the government.

The Sandinista movement has always contained Christians, she said. A large number of Christians have found in their faith the very reasons for supporting the revolution that brought the Sandinistas to power, according to her remarks. At another session of the committee, the American representative asserted that Nicaragua is now applying a stringent test to religious activity.

U.N. discusses Christian action in Nicaragua

NEW YORK (EP)—Carl Tiller, Baptist World Alliance observer at the United Nations, has reported on recent discussion in the U.N. of Christian activity in Nicaragua.

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Carey gets grant from Sears-Roebuck

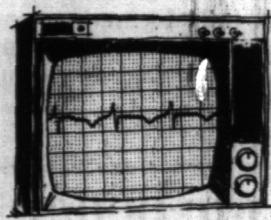
Unrestricted grants totaling more than \$10,700 will be distributed to ten privately supported colleges and universities in Mississippi this week by The Sears-Roebuck Foundation, Bill Jordan, area representative said today.

In the Hattiesburg area, William Carey College will receive a grant totaling \$1,500.

The Mississippi colleges and universities are among 946 private accredited two and four year institutions across the country which are sharing in \$1,565,000 in Sears Foundation funds for the 1982-83 academic year. Funds may be used as the colleges and universities deem necessary.

Pinelake to build

Jim Craig, left, chairman of the Building Committee for Pinelake Church, Rankin County, and Lannie Wilbourn, pastor, break ground for two new buildings for the church. The expansion program for the church is budgeted at \$869,000 for a 750-seat auditorium of conventional construction and a metal activities building. The budgeted figure is for construction and parking lot pavement but not furnishings and equipment. The auditorium building will contain an office area, a choir area, and Sunday School classrooms. Peoples Construction Company of Jackson was awarded the contract.



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"I don't like me"

I am not a teenager, but I'm down on myself. I was often told as a child that I would never amount to much. I often wonder what I can do to get people to like me. I can do some things well, but there are always those who seem to do them better and easier. You wrote in "Intensive Care" a number of suggestions to build your children up and said that low self-esteem is the number one family disease in America. Is there anything I can do about me?—Down on Me.

Yes. Remembering that the second commandment according to Jesus is to love your neighbor as yourself, you can admit that self-loathing or self-depreciation is sinful. And there are some practical things you can do to build your own self-esteem. Self-acceptance demands that you take an inventory of your strengths and weaknesses. Major on strengths since you are probably very conscious of your weaknesses. You may still have youth (under 40), reasonably good health, talents, or God-given gifts of which you are unaware. As a Christian, you are probably better than most in character attributes.

Self-affirmation means to affirm the things about yourself that you have accepted after a realistic evaluation. Do not discount yourself. Do not be tight about your real or imagined im-

perfections. Do not try to impose the burden of perfection on yourself or play God. Have a sense of humor about your eccentricities.

Usually the person of low self-esteem must learn to accept the affirmation of others, so do not discount compliments. Learn to say "thank you" with graciousness and appreciation. When you have low moments, recycle affirmations you have received from the past. If you need some bolstering, share your feeling with a family member or friend. How do they know what you need unless you tell them?

Learn the art of building self-esteem in others. If you can meet a need you see in someone else, you should know the need within you can also be met. Look for and voice positive feelings about other people. This is a most important practice in getting people to like you. If you can't think of something new to say to a family member or friend that will build them up, you may repeat an affirmation by saying, "As I have told you before . . ."

Remember that self-love is really accepting the first gift that God has given you, and that gift is YOU!

Address inquiries to Intensive Care, The Baptist Record, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Thursday, February 10, 1983

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 3

Changes in bylaws of Mississippi WMU

Several minor changes in the Bylaws of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union need to be made in order to bring the Bylaws up to date.

Article XI of the Bylaws states that proposed changes are to be published in two issues of the BAPTIST RECORD at least one month before the WMU Convention. Proposed changes are in bold type.

ARTICLE III — RELATIONSHIPS

Section 3. Offerings shall include Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions, Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions, Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions, and Edwina Robinson WMU Special Day Offering.

ARTICLE VII — THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1. The president, vice-president, executive director-treasurer, recording secretary and associate recording secretary of the Union shall hold like positions on the Executive Board.

Section 8. The Executive Board shall hold the executive director-treasurer responsible for the administration, development, and execution of established plans, policies and broad programs of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE IX — COMMITTEES

Section 1. The president and the executive director-treasurer shall be

ex-officio members of all committees of Woman's Missionary Union except the Nominating Committee.

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Revival Dates

Corinth Church, Heidelberg: Feb. 18-20; Jessie Griffith of Mt. Pisgah Church, Melvin, Ala., evangelist; C. W. Stone of Gulfport, leading the singing; Eddie Holloman, pastor; Friday at 7 p.m.; Saturday at 10:45 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.



Darrell Robinson
Pastor
Dauphin Way
Baptist Church
Mobile, Alabama

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March 12-17, 1983

To be held at

Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, Alabama

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Editorials

"A more excellent way"

Mississippi has become a state of racial diversity. We have sizeable representatives of all of the major racial groups in the world. There are oriental representatives in the Delta and along the Gulf coast as well as in other areas, there are Mexicans to be found in scattered pockets all across the state, there are Indians gathered for the most part near Philadelphia and on the coast, and of course there are black and white residents all over the state. It behoves us, then, to be able to

achieve harmony among the races in order that we may dwell in peace and security in our land. And we are aware that finding racial harmony demands more than facing a black and white issue. We, all of us, live among people of all races.

Feb. 13 is Race Relations Sunday across the nation among Southern Baptist churches. And while harmonious relationships among peoples of different races is a condition that must be

continually honed toward perfection, this Sunday is the time for paying particular attention to the need.

The theme for the observance is "A More Excellent Way." The scripture passage that has been selected by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission to draw attention to the observance is I Corinthians 12:31b. It reads, "And I will show you a still more excellent way."

Always we are to seek a more per-

fect understanding. Always we are to seek a more excellent way. This is as true in our relationships with those of other races as it is with any other circumstance of life.

Let us remember and make this concept a part of our lives. God is no respecter of persons. Neither should we be.

In Mississippi the observance is sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission.

Postage higher, subscriptions same

The Baptist Record's postage costs have gone up this month, but we have not increased our subscription rates, and we will not. They will remain the same throughout this year unless an additional postage hike of gigantic proportions takes place in October. There will not be one before then.

We moved from Step 13 to Step 14 in a 16-step subsidy phase-out process this month. Very likely we will move to Step 15 on Oct. 1. We expect the move from Step 13 to Step 14 will mean about a 16-percent increase in postage rates. The move on to Step 15 will be another increase of like proportions.

We are not unfamiliar with those kinds of rates. On Jan. 10, 1982, we were moved from Step 10 to Step 16 overnight, and we lived with that rate until late in July. We kept our subscription rates constant through most of the year because we had put a small increase into effect on Jan. 1, 1982.

About the middle of July, however, just before the postage rates went down to Step 13 unexpectedly, we were forced to announce a rise in subscription costs to take place Sept. 1. They were not raised again on Jan. 1 of this year, and they will not be raised during 1983.

As the postage rates skyrocketed last year, many of the Southern Baptist state papers cut back on the number of issues. We did not. We felt that a newspaper needs to continue on a regular basis if at all possible. And at an annual subscription cost of \$5.52 on the Every Family Plan, we feel that the *Baptist Record* is still a bargain.

That is just a little over 11 cents per copy. Because it is billed monthly, the Every Family Plan costs only 46 cents per family per month.

That is surely a bargain in today's economy.

We do appreciate the continuing

confidence exhibited by Mississippi Baptists in the ministry of the *Baptist Record*. We have lost some subscribers since the subscription price was raised on Sept. 1, as would be expected. We are still solidly in third place in the number of subscriptions among the 24 state papers, however, in spite of the fact that Mississippi is eighth in Baptist population. We don't speak of our circulation in order to brag about it but to express appreciation for continued confidence.

The *Baptist Record* has one simple purpose. That is to aid the churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention in their mission of witnessing to the world. Our concept of the world is that it begins in the pew of the church and stretches around the globe and back to the pew again. We try to accomplish our purpose by seeking to help the church members be better able to function as church members by pro-

viding the information and inspiration they need in several forms so that they will be able to do that.

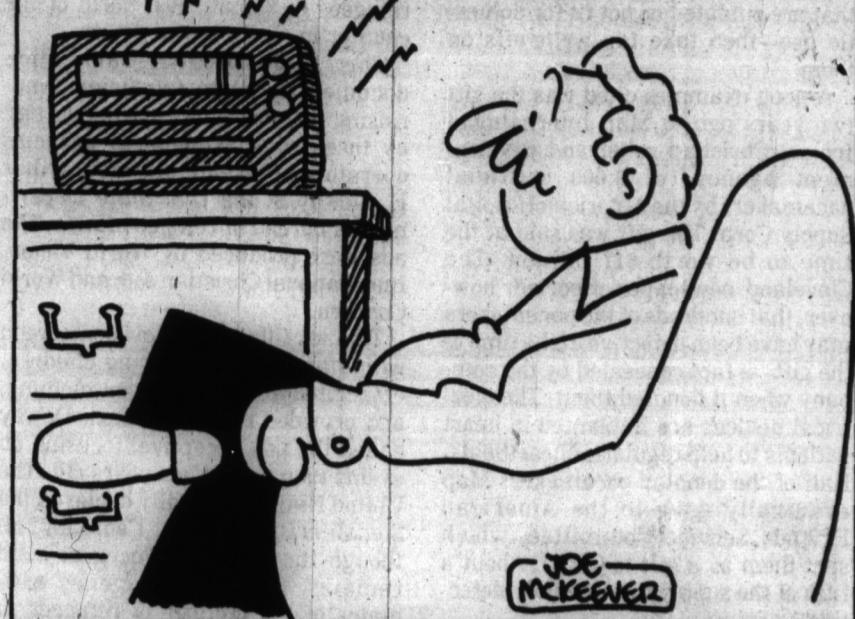
We are the publication of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Our efforts are guided through counsel offered by a convention-elected Advisory Committee. We will continue to seek to serve the convention through service to the churches that are affiliated with it to the very best of our ability.

We express our appreciation for the support of Mississippi Baptists and we ask that you will continue to join us in this ministry as we face these uncertain but challenging times that are ahead of us. The *Baptist Record* is the best source of information there is on the status of our efforts to witness to the world and for help on continuing them.

We are right in the middle of Bold Mission Thrust, and we intend to stay there.

Haywood N. Stubble

"AND NOW, HERE IS LEONARD'S LOSERS— THE CHURCH WITH NO VISION WILL LOSE TO THE WORLD; THE LAZY CHRISTIAN WILL LOSE TO TEMPTATION; OTHER LOSERS ARE DEATH, HELL, AND THE GRAVE."



Faces And Places

By Anne McWilliams

February day

"...in everything give thanks..." (I Thess. 5:18)

Thank you for today, Lord.—

For the rain that's sinking new potholes into the streets and swishing aside the piles of fallen leaves, to make little gullies in my back yard. (I am glad we don't have droughts as long as those Paul Jones said they used to have when he lived in Olin, Tex.)

Thank you for the rain-washed, red-headed woodpecker knocking away at the biscuit I tossed out to him. Thank you for the circling bluejay (though I'm mad at him right now for chasing away that cardinal).

Thank you most especially that W. D. heard the alarm clock before I did, and since he was already up, that he filled the kettle so the coffee water would be hot by the time I struggled to the kitchen.

Thank you that I remembered to pack his lunch (somewhere I got the idea that that is one of a loving wife's duties). Thank you that when he immediately unpacked it, he could find a way to rearrange every item in the bag to his own satisfaction! (Thank you that we can laugh at each other's idiosyncrasies!) And thank you that we had some food to pack.

Thank you that my husband saw the flat tire on my car before he left for work, and changed it for me without a word of complaint, like, "Where have you been driving, to pick up this nail?" or "You ought to learn to do this yourself."

Thank you that he helped me find a place for extra cartons of food in the freezer, when I got home from the grocery store last night. Thank you for

the puddles of water on the kitchen floor this morning, and for the drama they produced: "Oh, look, how terrible!" "Where is this coming from?" "Do you think a pipe has burst?" "Maybe it's this tube leaking." "It seems to be coming down the side of the refrigerator." And the hilarious relief when we found the answer. He had laid two bags of ice on top of the refrigerator when he made room for the extra cartons in the freezer compartment, and forgotten to replace them. That's all! Thank you that I hadn't already called a plumber!

Thank you that I made it safely to work, through all the traffic (and thank you I had a job to drive to, and an extra nice boss and nice co-workers) and thank you that I got home again before the flash floods covered Fortification Street and Industrial Drive.

Thank you that W. D. already had a stew in the pot cooking, and for the aroma that greeted me when I opened the kitchen door. Thank you for the warm orange glow beckoning me to the fireplace and for the hum of the washing machine going at full speed.

Thank you, Lord, for your part in creating this husband of mine, and for giving him to me. I could never ask for a better Valentine. I love him. I really do. His birthday is Saturday, Lord. Help me to know what to get for him. When I ask what he wants, he always says, "Nothing." That's possibly true, for I know he already has a boat and 22 fishing rods.

Thank you for this day, Lord.—

For the 10 o'clock weather report, and the forecast of sunshine tomorrow.

I have experience, not just job experience. Most people prove competent in the mechanics of the job they were trained to do. But I'm speaking of life experience. (Here is where people fail.) I'm speaking of how to get along with your fellow man, of how to handle a budget, of how to handle alcohol abuse, of how to handle high tempers, of how to be a good marriage partner, of how to handle drugs. These are the things most people learn through trial and error. "School or the taught concept" has not taken control. But our generation can advise. We have been through these problems. We have survived. So! Help those in need. Visit the sick. Pray intercessory prayer. Be available to advise. Smile. Be a friend. Use those neglected skills.

Yes, Seniors! There is still a chance to be more worthy of our longevity. Throw the shell from over your light and start to shine, friend, shine! Perry Gibson is director of the Adult Sunday School Department at First Baptist Church, Bay St. Louis.

"Prayer for Spiritual Awakening" will feature Kennedy, Beasley, Greer



the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Evangelism department. On Jan. 31, there was a Brotherhood kick-off rally attended by 110 men.

The conference begins with a Wednesday evening service at 7. All Attala churches participating will move their Mar. 2 services to First Church, Kosciusko, to begin the conference.

Don Womble, pastor of Unity and North Union churches, associational music director will direct a combined choir during sessions. Guy Henderson,

Mississippi Baptist evangelism director, will make a special presentation concerning "Spiritual Awakening in America." And Joe Blackwell, pastor of Williamsburg Church and associational evangelism chairman, will discuss revival preparation.

Purpose of the conference, according to Henderson, will be to "give comprehensive information and spiritual motivation in creating an atmosphere for spiritual awakening across our state."

New Northwest church site bought

A new church site has been purchased in Northwest Baptist Association, with a check for \$50,000 from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Five acres of land were bought for a new church in DeSoto County on Getwell Road south of Stateline Road, south of Memphis. This was done after a study of the situation was made by the Associational Missions Committee and the Associational Administrative Committee, and after final approval was given by the Associational Executive Committee on Jan. 8.

The new mission, which will be meeting on the site, is sponsored by the Greenbrook Baptist Church. Ervin

Brown, director of missions, reports that it will be called the Summerwood Baptist Chapel.

The New Church Expansion Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board took a look at the area, voted to buy the site, and then sent \$50,000 to pay for the land in full. Also the Convention Board will deliver a mobile chapel to the site for use until a building can be constructed.

The site is at the Summerwood subdivision, which already has 30 houses. A group of around 40 expressed interest in the mission and were present for an orientation meeting.

Elmer Gray to retire as California editor

FRESNO, Calif. (BP)—Elmer L. Gray, editor of the California Southern Baptist since January of 1974, has announced his retirement, effective July 31, 1983.

Gray, 64, made his announcement at the closing session of the executive board of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California Jan. 25.

James Rivers, of Sacramento, chairman of the board operations committee, said a three member committee has been appointed to develop a profile of the type of individual who will be sought as Gray's successor. The committee consists of John

Lewis of Redwood City, Wayne Reynolds of Escondido and Joy McClung of Hollywood.

Gray, who will be 65 in March, came to the editorship of the 27,000 circulation newspaper from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., where he had been academic dean. He held the dean's post from 1970 to 1974. Previously, he was manager of the Sunday School department at the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville for three years, professor of church administration at GGBTS for eight years, and pastor of three churches in California.

flowing into SBC churches by 2000 could produce a national budget of \$1.25 billion. Of that amount, the plan designated 75 percent to fund the Foreign Mission Board and the Home Mission Board. This past year the two mission boards received 66.34 percent of the \$93.34 million national Cooperative Program receipts.

To reach the projections will require a real growth in giving of 300-350 percent beyond inflation but according to Ray the goals are actually, "conservative projections, based on solid data." Lolley noted, "what we are doing is asking Southern Baptists to give to world missions what it costs to buy one 1983 Nimitz class aircraft carrier."

Each member of the committee who spoke noted the key to the program is the involvement of the laity.

"This whole program starts with the family sitting down at home and talking about what God wants them to do," Lolley said. "We need a challenge, bold but bite-sized, to fund Bold Mission Thrust. Planned Growth In Giving requires a quantum leap but we think we can place before Southern Baptists a challenge to make that quantum leap."

The 34 regional conventions, which receive the individual church contributions and then distribute the money between its own programs and the national unified giving plan, will be asked to move toward a 50-50 split. Three conventions (Florida, Georgia, and Oklahoma) now send 45-48 percent of their income to the national level and are planning to be at the 50-50 level by 1985. Approximately half of the member churches presently give less than four percent.

The committee is suggesting the Executive Committee of the SBC name a 15-member Planned Growth In Giving task force of pastors, laypersons, directors of missions, SBC agency personnel, state executive directors, and state stewardship directors.

A national director of the effort also would be named by the Executive Committee. Both the task force and the national director would be set up for a period not to exceed five years.

The committee also is recommending the states pay for two-thirds of the cost of the training and promotion and the SBC operating budget provide the other third.

The part of the \$20 billion per year

of the library, and funds for development of the Gulf Coast Campus.

Heading the advanced gifts phase of the campaign will be Rodney Fairchild, chairman of the board of the Bank of Hattiesburg. The members of Fairchild's committee are area bankers and businessmen.

John D. Thomas is chairman of the Hattiesburg special gifts committee. Activity in surrounding areas will be led by Carey's minister trustees.

Campaign activities in Jackson will be promoted by Wayne Parker, a Jackson trustee, and activities on the Gulf Coast will be led by Congressman Trent Lott. The committee consists of John

(Continued from page 1)
dent J. Ralph Noonester.

Part one of the development program will lead to the enrichment of the present programs of the college. Curriculum revision and faculty development will be included in this program part as well as strengthening student services and fiscal management.

Part two of the program will involve five major projects of development. Establishing additional student scholarships and a perpetual plant fund will be the largest projects involved in the second part of the program. Additional projects will help provide instructional equipment, an upgrading

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Dunn downplays Baptist drop in 98th Congress

WASHINGTON (BP)—The decline of Southern Baptist members of Congress—from 36 in the 97th Congress to 30 in the 98th—should not be viewed with alarm, said James M. Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. (Two of the 30 are Mississippians.)

"The vast majority of voters do not know their representatives' and senators' religious affiliation," said Dunn.

A 1982 study reveals that members of Congress take their religious orientation, values, and motivation very seriously, he said.

In the 98th Congress, six senators and 24 representatives are affiliated

with the Southern Baptist Convention. Southern Baptist members of the Senate are Thad Cochran, R-Miss.; Wendell H. Ford, D-Ky.; Mark O. Hatfield, R-Ore.; Jesse Helms, R-N.C.; J. Bennett Johnston, D-La., and Strom Thurmond, R-S.C.

Among representatives with Southern Baptist affiliations are Ike F. Andrews, D-N.C.; D. Douglas Barnard, Jr., D-La.; Tom Bevill, D-Ala.; James T. Broyhill, R-N.C.; Dan Daniel, D-Va.; Jack Fields, R-Texas; Newt Gingrich, R-Ga.; Albert Gore Jr., D-Tenn.; Kent R. Hance, D-Texas; W. G. Hefner, D-N.C.; Jack Hightower, D-Texas; Steny Hoyer, D-Md.; Also Carroll Hubbard Jr., D-Ky.;

Earl Hutto, D-Fla.; Edgar L. Jenkins, D-Ga.; Walter B. Jones, D-N.C.; Gillis W. Long, D-La.; Trent Lott, R-Miss.; William H. Natcher, D-Ky.; Claude Pepper, D-Fla.; Carl D. Perkins, D-Ky.; Harold Rogers, R-Ky.; I. T. Valentine, D-N.C.; and Charles O. Whitley, D-N.C.

The only new Southern Baptist member of Congress is Valentine.

The national COM rally will be June 24-26 at Peachtree Campground, Jemison, Ala.

Campers plan spring rally

The spring rally of the Mississippi Campers on Mission will be March 25-27 at Boone's Campground, Columbia. Campers on Mission is a Baptist-related group of campers who participate in mission activities. The group's fall rally will be Sept. 23-25 at a location to be announced later.

The national COM rally will be June 24-26 at Peachtree Campground, Jemison, Ala.

Roman Catholics strengthen their hold on first place

WASHINGTON (EP)—More Roman Catholics were elected to the 98th Congress in the 1982 elections than ever before, according to a new study of congressional religious affiliations released today by Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

Continuing a 20-year trend, Catholics strengthened their hold on first place by adding 6 members in November voting. The new Congress will have 142 Catholics. Methodists regained second place, which they had lost to Episcopalians in 1980. There will be 73 United Methodists in the new Congress compared to 70 in the outgoing body. Prior to the early 1960's Methodists had long been the largest group in Congress.

Episcopalians dropped from second to third place, losing 10 members. They now hold 61, their lowest representation in 20 years.

Presbyterians remained in fourth place with 54 members, a loss of one. Baptists remained in fifth place with 46 members, a loss of one. Baptists remained in fifth place, but with a reduction of 8 seats. The 46-member Baptist representation is the smallest in over two decades.

Other representation changes included Jews, 33 to 38; Lutherans, 22 to 25; non-denominational Protestants, 19 to 24; Mormons, 11 to 13; Eastern Orthodox, 5 to 7; Independent Church of Christ communities, 5 to 7; United Church of Christ, 16 to 14; Disciples of Christ (Christian Church), 6 to 4; Christian Scientists, 4 to 2; and Unitarian Universalists, stayed at 10. Only five members held no religious affiliation.



STACEY HUGHES, Acteen, was recently recognized as Queen and Queen with a Scepter, during special service at First Baptist Church, Mize. The theme was "Wherever He Leads." Mrs. Sandy Adcock is Acteen's leader. George McNeese is pastor.

Names in the News

Kenneth Earl Warren, a Mississippian, was recently ordained to the gospel ministry by the New Life Baptist Church, Richmond, Va., where he is youth minister.

Warren received the M.R.E. degree from New Orleans Seminary in June, 1982. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Warren of Columbia, Miss., and his wife, Vivian Elaine, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Wilson of Starkville. Mrs. Warren teaches in the Christian day school at the New Life Church, where Raleigh M. James is pastor.

Sidney Pitts of First Baptist Church, Terry, was honored in a recent morning service for 30 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School.

Wayne Coleman is pastor and Mrs. Peggy Champion is Sunday School director at First, Terry.

Tommy Anthony, youth director of First Church, Natchez, was named the Outstanding Young Religious Worker of 1982 by the Natchez Jaycees. This is a community award and a first in the category of religion to be given by the Jaycees of Natchez.

Sam Morgan, new pastor of College Hill Baptist Church, Calhoun County, was ordained at his home church in Coldwater on Sunday, Jan. 16.



Jones County BYW to meet Feb. 15

The Baptist Young Women of Jones County will hold their annual meeting Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. at West Laurel Baptist Church, Laurel. Marilyn Hopkins, state WMU consultant, will speak.

Camelot Fashions will present a style show of spring fashions. A salad supper will be served (those attending will bring their favorite salads). A nursery will be provided.

Stone students give for hunger

Students at Stone High School in Wiggins sent a check for \$706.43 to the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission to be forwarded to the Southern Baptists' World Hunger Fund. Mrs. Mike Cain is sponsor of the students' devotions committee.

Homecomings

Lake Harbor Church (Rankin); homecoming Feb. 13; James Pugh, former pastor, now pastor in central Florida, preaching at 11 a.m. service; Bill Stout, former pastor, now pastor at Line Creek Church, Pelahatchie, preaching in afternoon service, which will begin at 1:30; dinner on the grounds; Roy Clark, pastor.

The Honor Roll of churches

- 5. FBC, Water Valley, Yalobusha
- 6. FBC, Vicksburg, Warren
- 7. Morrison Heights, Hinds-Madison
- 8. Rolling Creek, Clarke
- 9. FBC, Greenville, Washington
- 10. Parkway, Hinds-Madison
- 11. FBC, Louisville, Winston
- 12. FBC, Winona, Montgomery
- 13. Meadville, Franklin
- 14. FBC, Summit, Pike
- 15. Forest, Scott
- 16. FBC, Crystal Springs, Copiah
- 17. Hollandale, Washington
- 18. Mt. Zion, Independence, Northwest
- 19. East Fork, Mississippi
- 20. Liberty, Mississippi
- 21. FBC, Aberdeen, Monroe
- 22. FBC, Meridian, Lauderdale
- 23. Taylor, Lafayette
- 24. FBC, McComb, Pike
- 25. FBC, Indianola, Sunflower
- 26. FBC, Grenada, Grenada
- 27. Beulah, Simpson
- 28. Broadmoor, Hinds-Madison
- 29. Raymond, Hinds-Madison
- 30. Calvary, Hinds-Madison
- 31. Tate Street, Corinth, Alcorn
- 32. Coffeeville, Yalobusha
- 33. FBC, Anguilla, Sharkey-Issaquah
- 34. Richton, Perry
- 35. Temple, Lebanon
- 36. FBC, Brandon, Rankin
- 37. FBC, Hattiesburg, Lebanon
- 38. Macedonia, Lee
- 39. Edna, Marion
- 40. Collins, Covington
- 41. FBC, Florence, Rankin
- 42. FBC, Amory, Monroe
- 43. FBC, Olive Branch, Northwest
- 44. FBC, Poplarville, Pearl River
- 45. Alta Woods, Hinds-Madison
- 46. Crowder, Quitman
- 47. Hathorn, Jeff-Davis
- 48. Noxapater, Winston
- 49. Galilee, Mississippi
- 50. Oakvale, Lawrence
- 51. FBC, Clinton, Hinds-Madison
- 52. Union, Clarke
- 53. Flag Lake, Northwest
- 54. Macedonia, Union County
- 55. Harrisburg, Lee
- 56. Morgantown, Adams
- 57. Gray's Creek, Northwest
- 58. Mt. Horeb, Lauderdale
- 59. North Batesville, Panola
- 60. FBC, Tupelo, Lee
- 61. FBC, Corinth, Alcorn
- 62. FBC, Columbus, Lowndes
- 63. Oak Forest, Hinds-Madison
- 64. FBC, Soso, Jones
- 65. Pleasant Grove, Wayne
- 66. Ephesus, Scott
- 67. Fellowship, Lauderdale
- 68. Temple-Petal, Lebanon
- 69. Hillcrest, Hinds-Madison
- 70. Georgetown, Copiah
- 71. FBC, Pascagoula, Jackson



PRETTY ANGELS ALL IN A ROW... watch the manger scene during the chapel Christmas program. The children's Christmas story was directed by Virginia Hunt and enjoyed by residents and visitors at Powell Chapel prior to the Christmas Hollidays.

The cost of postage

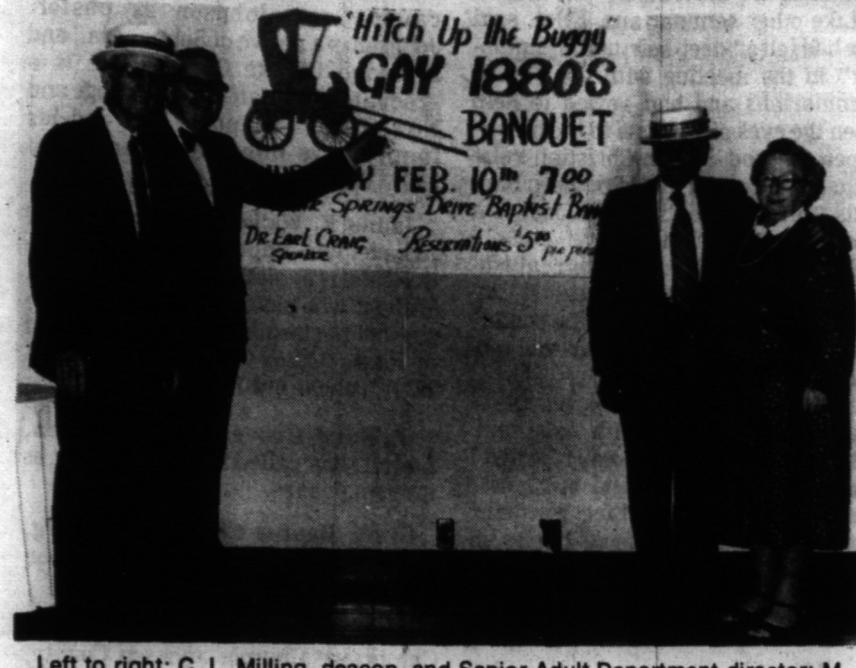
We understand that some believe we do not have to pay postage.

The Village undertakes to cooperate with its friends and supporters by furnishing business envelopes with our name and address and postage-free privileges already printed thereon. We are glad to offer this service which we expect to continue.

However, we believe friends of our children would like to be reminded that it costs us 24 cents to redeem each envelope from the post office — four cents more than the cost of a stamp.

Perhaps many of you would like to consider putting a stamp on these envelopes. Some of you might wish to request that we eliminate sending receipts for your gifts altogether.

Our postage and printing costs are very excessive. A stamp on the envelope you use in writing us or sending a gift would help.



Left to right: C. L. Milling, deacon, and Senior Adult Department director; M. J. Harden, minister of education; John Morris, one of the oldest members—90 years and still active and a deacon; Mrs. Myrtle McDevitt, prepare for Gay 1880's banquet in celebration of the centennial year of Poplar Springs Drive Baptist Church, Meridian.

Poplar Springs Drive celebrates 100th year

Poplar Springs Drive Baptist Church, Meridian, in celebration of its centennial year, has scheduled a church-wide "Gay 1880's" banquet Feb. 10 with the Victorian 1880's theme. Earl Craig, pastor at First Baptist Church, Jackson, will be the speaker. Lamar McDonald, Jr., is the Centennial Committee Chairman.

Recently the senior adult B.A.L.L. Club (Be Active—Live Longer) had as the theme of their monthly meeting, "We Celebrate Your Birthday."

January was observed as the birthday month of the year, and each member received a miniature birthday cake in the motif of his or her birthday month.

Other events planned are a Tasting Bee; revival March 6-9 with Altus Newell, who was reared and surrendered to the ministry at Poplar Springs Drive, as evangelist; and Centennial Day on April 24, and the presentation of the cantata "Kneel at the Cross" under the direction of Harvey Kelly, minister of music. James A. Ruffin is the pastor.

Virgil and Grace Colson, missionary associates to Liberia, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: P.O. Box 488, Port of Spain, Trinidad). He is a native of Ohio; and she is from Booneville, Miss.

Curtis and Deanie Ferrell, missionaries to Ecuador, may be addressed at Casilla 328, Cuenca, Ecuador. He was born in Montgomery, Ala., and grew up in Argentina, where his parents were Southern Baptist missionaries. She is from Jackson.

John and Jean Jacobs, missionaries to Trinidad, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: P.O. Box 488, Port of Spain, Trinidad).

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Devotional Pathetic progress

By Earl H. Craig, Jr., pastor
First Church, Jackson
Psalm 127:1

The psalmist reminds us, "Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain." Our nation must be careful about the object of its trust. That trust cannot be in our wealth or wisdom; in our military or might. It cannot even be in our citizenry!

Our nation was built upon the desire and initiative of individuals. The value of a man was best judged by the question, "Can he do the job?" Industry and business have been intent in knowing the skills of an employee. The bottom line has often been production.

Efficiency and competency have resulted in an amazing civilization. Ours is a civilization that has dreamed "impossible dreams," only to see them become possible. From dream to reality has become our path to progress.

Craig Is it not true, however, that this modern scene brings despair? Has it not been true that much of our so-called progress was pseudo-progress? Man has shortened the space between himself and others. He has lengthened his life. He has found multiple ways to save time. With all his progress, however, man is becoming the victim of that which he has made. The progress made in the laboratory is now turning upon him as a sort of Frankenstein.

In 1924 Winston Churchill, in a prophetic way, said: "Mankind has never been in this position before. Without having improved appreciably in virtue or enjoying wiser guidance, it has got into its hands for the first time the tools by which it can unfailingly accomplish its own extermination."

We are now learning that the character of a man is as important as his skills. We are learning that the desires and motives of an individual are as significant as his abilities. We have seen the dangers inherent in a civilization which is highly skilled in technology but lacking in character. We want to ban saccharin, yet want to legalize marijuana. As one Armed Force's general said: "We have become nuclear giants and ethical infants."

Alfred the Great is reported to have said: "Power is never good unless he be good that has it." Unless man is responsive to the tug of God above, he will be responsive to the tug of evil from below. When the Apostle Paul talked about the war between the flesh and spirit, he had this in mind. In every nation a choice must be made. The choices are only two. Either we shall live life under the guidance of God, or we shall live life under our own guidance.

Those who feel man is supreme are to be pitied. They have not learned from history or experience about the fallibility of man. "Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain." Progress built on man alone is "pathetic progress."



FAIR RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN, recently dedicated its new parsonage. The four bedroom, three bath house had been almost completely paid for by the time of dedication. The building committee members were: Mrs. Neil Foster, chairman, Mary Nations, Pat Hodge, Walter Young, Kathy Ramage, and John Pennington. The pastor is Mike Ramage.

Bible Book

God's sovereign choice

By Joe H. Tuten, pastor,
Calvary, Jackson
Romans 9:1-29

We begin a new unit of Sunday School lessons this week. Our study for the next three weeks has as its theme "Israel in God's Plan," based on Romans 9:1-11:36. This week's lesson, which includes Romans 9:1-29, is entitled "God's Sovereign Choice of Israel." The main thrust of this week's Bible study is that even though Paul was very sorrowful because Israel had rejected Christ, he steadfastly maintained that God's dealings with Israel were totally just.

There may be no question with most of us about God's justice in dealing with Israel. Whatever God does is just in our thinking. The Jews, however, who have a strong sense of being chosen, even today may not accept the persuasions of God's justice as readily as we do.

Paul was keenly and painfully conscious of Israel's rejection of Christ. Even though Christianity had its beginning primarily within Israel, by the time Paul wrote Romans the Jews increasingly were "backing away" from Christianity. Christianity was becoming predominantly a Gentile religion. Israel had been chosen of God from among all nations 2,000 years earlier. Yet, Israel in Paul's day was having little to do with what God was doing in the world through Christ.

Paul's sorrow concerning Israel (9:1-5). God had chosen Israel as a special people. He had chosen Israel through Abraham and through Isaac. God's choice of Israel was clinched historically when he offered the covenant at Sinai (Exodus 19:4-6). He did not choose Israel because of any assets they possessed (Deut. 7:7). He chose them in love (Deut. 7:8), and he chose them so they could be "unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation" (Exodus 19:6). "An holy nation" envisioned that the people of Israel, by uniting with God, would partake of God's holy character. "A kingdom of priests" envisioned that the nation of Israel would aggressively or purposefully share their knowledge of the one true and living God with all other nations.

God's choice of Israel was sovereign for two reasons. First, "sovereign" means "supreme," and God is supreme. Second, "sovereign" means "independent of and unlimited by any others," and God certainly did not seek the advice of anyone in choosing Israel. He chose them in his love. He chose them for his purpose. His purpose concerned the ultimate goal and

well-being of all people through receiving from Israel the revelation and knowledge of God.

Paul openly and publicly admitted his "great heaviness and continual sorrow" over Israel. God had adopted them from among all other nations, shown them his glory, established a covenant with them, given them his law, instructed them in worship, and encouraged them to a life of faith by his promises (Romans 9:4) all to little avail. Israel had scorned God's love.

It was not Israel's past, however, that made Paul's heart ache. His ceaseless sorrow was because of Israel's rejection of Christ. Christ was God's fulfillment of all pertaining to his choice of Israel, the glory, the covenant, the law, the worship, and the promises. Israel was treating God in flesh as they so long had treated God in spirit. Paul's burden was so great that he said, "I could wish myself accursed from Christ for my brethren . . ." (Romans 9:3).

Of course, Paul could not trade his relationship with Christ for his nation's relationship with Christ. No one can do that, as God made clear to Moses (Exodus 32:31-33). Nor did Paul really make such an offer. He knew better. He said he sometimes felt such a wish within himself. Christ, not Paul, died for Israel's salvation. If and when Israelites or any other people are saved, it will be Christ who saves them and not Paul or any other substitute savior.

God's promise to Israel not broken (9:6-13). This passage has to do with election. The concept of election includes as a minimum love, selection, purpose, promise, certainly and fulfillment. Love is the only attitude the Bible identifies as God's reason for choosing Israel. The Bible does not apologize for the fact of divine selection (9:9-13). Paul reasoned forcefully that God's resourcefulness and faithfulness guarantee fulfillment of his election.

God not unfair in his sovereign choice (9:14-18). Is God unrighteous because he chose Israel and did not choose another nation for his purpose in revealing himself and proclaiming his redemptive love to all? "Absolutely not!" Paul exclaims. The fact that he chose Israel for this very significant purpose does not mean God had no purpose for the other nations. Paul used Pharaoh as an illustration that God has other purposes for other people.

God's right to choose (9:19-26). God has an absolute right to choose among people and give his differing purposes

Christian-Jewish dialogue includes Southern Baptists

IRVING, Texas (BP)—Jewish seminary students from New York, Cincinnati, and Philadelphia rubbed shoulders with future Baptist and Methodist preachers and Catholic priests from Texas in a dialogue between young Jewish and Christian seminarians.

The "Seminar Conference on Jewish and Christian Relations" sponsored by the Council of Southwestern Theological Schools (CSTS), an association of Protestant and Catholic seminaries, and the American Jewish Committee met at Holy Trinity Seminary at the University of Dallas.

Participants included students and faculty members from CSTS seminaries, and the American Jewish Committee met at Holy Trinity Seminary at the University of Dallas.

Texas Christian University, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Holy Trinity Seminary, and Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and leading theologians, educators and intergroup relations specialists from all parts of the country.

"We have really broken new ground here," said Marc H. Tannenbaum, AJC national director of interreligious affairs. "This is the first time seminarians from Roman Catholic, mainline Protestants, evangelicals, Pentecostal and Jewish communities have come together for dialogue."

Professors from Christian seminaries in the Southwest and from Jewish seminaries in the North and East presented papers on major prob-

lems in Jewish-Christian relations. SWBTS professors were Bobby Adams, Boo Heflin, and Cecil Roper.

Tannenbaum said the meeting's success was even more significant because it was held in an area where evangelical Christians dominate the religious scene and where Jewish congregations are few. "This is a whole new disciplined way of laying a foundation for the next generation of Christian and Jewish leadership," he said.

These kids ten years from now will be running the churches and synagogues of America and also the seminaries. They will fill permanent pulpits and help form the consciences of thousands and thousands of their constituents."

"Most of the Jewish seminarians had never talked to Christian seminarians before," said Tannenbaum. The same could be said of most Christian seminarians in Texas, who never had any meaningful conversations with Jews.

Keynote speaker Carl Van Buren, professor of religion at Temple University, challenged the Christian community to rediscover how Jewish it really was. "Being nice to Jews is not the point," he said, Christians, through seminary teaching and other teaching, needed to become aware of an "amazing reversal that had occurred since Vatican II."

"Both Protestants and Catholics" he said, "have scrapped the old teachings that God has ended his covenant with the Jewish people and made a new covenant with Christians. Now the main

body of Christians believes God's covenant with the Jews is still in effect and will endure forever."

Sam Weintraub, a student at Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, said he had never heard about the kind of Christians he met at the conference—those who show love and respect for the Jewish faith. "The only Christians I had heard of were the ones who had made it so hard on the Jews."

Nancy Ellett, a student at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, admitted she came from a background of religious prejudice. All Jews had formerly been considered as objects of conversions, she said. "We (Baptists) have not always been sure that Catholics are Christians," she said.

Like other seminarians, Ellett said she had felt a "deep spiritual community" in the meeting with the Jewish seminarians and had vowed to help open the eyes of Baptists to the importance of good Jewish-Christian relations. "To a majority of Southern Baptists (Jewish-Christian relations) is a non-issue," she said.

Davie Rabinowitz, a rabbinical student at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, said she had found the conference to be "an intensive spiritual moment in my life."

"Now I, as a Jew, feel responsible to learn of the Christian faith," she said. "As long as my religion was rejected I could ignore Christianity, but now I find I must find a place for your tradition—not as erroneous but as an authentic expression of religious faith."

Knight
Joseph B. Knight began his ministry Jan. 16 as pastor of Roxie Baptist Church, Franklin County. He is a graduate of Clarke College, Mississippi College, and New Orleans Seminary. His previous experience includes pastorate in Mississippi, and service as minister of education in Mississippi and Alabama.

Providence Church, Bolivar County, has called Noel Brock as pastor. He goes from New Albany, where he has been engaged in full time evangelism. He was previously pastor of Morton Grove Church, Lee County.

Skene Church, Bolivar County, has called Gary Johnson as pastor. Johnson is a native of Selma, Ala., and attended Clarke College. He is a graduate of William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary. He and his family have moved to Skene from Holly Bluff in Yazoo Association.

James E. Walker, former pastor of Arkadelphia Baptist Church, has retired and is available for pulpit supply. Walker, who has spent 31 years in Mississippi pastorate, may be contacted at Route 3, Box 146, Meridian, Miss. 39301 (phone 693-7186).

Oakland Grove Baptist Church, Laurel, has called Lester Gardner as interim pastor.

Grace Baptist Church, Vicksburg, has called Charles Bufkin, Jr. to the ministry of children at Grace.

Rob Davis has resigned as pastor of Cambridge Church, Jackson County, and has accepted a position as associate pastor/youth director at a church in Alabama.

Larry Futral has moved to First Church, Ocean Springs, to begin work as minister of education and music.

Jee Lynn Joiner has resigned the pastorate of Antioch Church, Columbus, to accept the pastorate of Temple Baptist Church, Winnsboro, La.

Keith Reese, new pastor of Bentley Church, Calhoun County, was ordained to the ministry on Feb. 6 at his home church in Chickasaw County.

Henning Andrews has been called as interim pastor of the Westside Baptist Church, Calhoun County. The pastor, Robert McDonald, resigned on Jan. 5.

Hampton Eggerton has resigned as pastor of Pineview Church, Jackson County.

"Captain Kangaroo" earns award

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—"Captain Kangaroo" and a CBS television executive will be honored by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission during its 14th Abe Lincoln Awards for distinguished broadcasters, Feb. 17.

Bob Keeshan, creator and host of "Captain Kangaroo," and Gene F. Jankowski, president of the CDS/Broadcast Group, will receive two of the top awards presented by the agency at the annual ceremony.

The Abe Lincoln Awards were created in 1970 to recognize the contributions of radio and TV broadcasters to their communities.

Jankowski's honor, the Distinguished Communications Medal, is the highest accolade given by the RTVC. He will be recognized for encouraging

the broadcast industry "to achieve its potential as a major contributor to the quality of life in America today and tomorrow." The citation also notes Jankowski's sensitivity to the moral values of viewers and his networks' commitment to quality news coverage.

Keeshan, who created "Captain Kangaroo" in 1955, will receive the Distinguished Communications Recognition Award for "enhancing the quality of life and contributing to the emotional and ethical growth of the children of this nation." His program, long the mainstay of CBS' morning lineup, is the longest running children's program on network television. It is now seen on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Life and Work

Seek righteousness first

By Beverly V. Tinnin, pastor,
First, Meridian

Matthew 5:6; 6:25-34; 13:45-46

Peace of mind has been the object of many people's quest for a long time. There was a Jewish lad who made a list of what he thought to be the essential "goods" of life. His list included wealth, health, power, friends, family and many other things. He showed his list to the Rabbi and asked, "Wouldn't a person automatically be happy and successful if he possessed all these things?"

The Rabbi studied the list and then shook his head. He wrote three words at the top of the lad's list. They were "peace of mind." The Rabbi observed, "Although a man may have a bank vault full of money and possess these other things, if his mind is troubled and his heart is heavy he is a miserable failure in life." The boy grew up to be Dr. Liebman who wrote one of the all time best sellers, *Peace of Mind*.

Why all the secrecy? Why did not Jesus simply tell them the exact location? Probably because the greedy ears of Judas were listening. Such a place would be an ideal spot for him to be trapped by his enemies and Jesus did not wish to be disturbed. He still had much to say to them (four chapters of teaching in John's gospel) and was assuring an uninterrupted, private meal. He remained in control. He would surely die but in his own way and at his own time. They would not take his life. He would give it.

III. We see how Jesus desires to have fellowship with his followers (22:15-18).

Once in the room Jesus tells them

how intensely he has "desired" to have this meal with them (v. 15). Elsewhere in the New Testament this work is translated "just" (Matt. 5:28). Only the context determines whether it means good or evil. Here it accentuates the deep longing in Jesus' heart to have fellowship with his followers before the horrors of the cross. Such desire is, of course, rooted in his love. He has the same intense desire to have fellowship with us and even with those who have not yet come into God's family.

IV. We see how Jesus wants to be remembered (22:19-20).

At the supper Jesus told them the bread and wine represented his body and blood. As such, they point to the violence of the death he suffered for believers. As he instituted this meal he said, "This do in remembrance of me" (v. 19). In other words, Jesus wanted to be remembered by a meal which pointed to his death. He wanted to be remembered for his sacrifice of love which brings us to God, firmly rooted in a New Covenant sealed in his own blood. The Lord's Supper insures we shall never forget.

Pagans worry about food, drink, and clothing. Jesus said, "Experiencing the love of God should free us from such crippling problems."

The parable of the pearl of great price (13:45-46).

Jesus illustrates the point that a busi-

ness finding it will take the big plunge. Opportunity may knock only once, so even though the price was all his wealth he sacrificed all to gain ownership. He was confident the pearl was worth far more than he paid for it.

Jesus pointed out not only what the pearl merchant should do, but what he does. By the same token a disciple sees the kingdom, recognizes its worth and does whatever is necessary to receive it.

Hunger and thirst after righteousness (5:6)

It is difficult for well fed moderns to catch the force Jesus intended this beatitude to convey. For his day the people lived on the edge of the desert. They knew malnutrition first hand from poverty and famine. Many starved to death. Even more dreaded was the torture of being on the desert without water. The lips would crack, the tongue swell, and even the ability to talk was lost. To people acquainted with true hunger and thirst Jesus said, "If you're dying for food and drink of the gospel variety, you will be filled."

The drive for salvation is compelling and reoccurring. When this is a person's yearning he will have it.

Bunker Hill

burns note

at centennial

Bunker Hill Baptist Church, Marion County, recently celebrated its 100th anniversary with approximately 700 members and guests in attendance, including the following former pastors: David J. Perry, Brookhaven; L. C. Hoff, Eudora, Ark.; H. B. Speights, Franklinton, La.; and H. D. Jordan, Memphis, Tenn.

The centennial day initiated a five day revival effort led by D. J. Benson, Laurel, and Leon Westerhouse, Birmingham, Ala.

A meal was provided in the Family Activity Center adjacent to the church.

Centennial services commemorating the 100-year history of the church were held in the afternoon. During this time a note burning ceremony signified that the \$400,000 church plant was debt free only 15 months after its completion.

The church has a current total membership of approximately 450, and provides a comprehensive program of Christian education and recreation for all age groups, reports Bob Kendrick, pastor.